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# Only the views we want you to

**FORUM WORLD** Features appeared to be just another news agency service, supplying to newspapers all over the globe articles ranging from fashion to politics, competently written, professionally produced and attractively priced.

But in reality its main purpose was different. Forum was in the propaganda business. An internal CIA memo to the then Director of Central Intelligence, Richard Helms, noted as part of its progress report: "In its first two years Forum World Features has provided the US with a significant means to counter Communist propaganda and has become a respected features service well on the way to a position of prestige in the journalism world."

It was the publication of that memorandum (with its hand-written note "run with the knowledge and cooperation of British Intelligence") which led to the hurried closure of the agency. But the publicity at the time concentrated solely on the news agency side of Forum—and its other, long-term operation went unnoticed.

This second operation was to commission, promote and organise the publication of books by authors of whom Forum World Features (FWF) approved. Because of the covert nature of the operation, the publishers would be completely unaware of the CIA connection. The publication went far beyond Britain. Editions were printed in Spanish and in Japanese to provide an international network of soft propaganda.

The owner of FWF in Britain and in the United States is Kern House Enterprises, which is registered in the US state of Delaware, notorious for its easy company rules and already spotlighted as a regular haven for CIA cover companies. One of Kern House's directors, Robert Gene Gately, has since been assigned to Bangkok as CIA station officer. The accounts for FWF in 1972 noted that if the Kern House subsidy was withdrawn "it would seriously damage our financial viability."

The chairman of FWF and Director of the Institute for the Study of Conflict, which acquired the library of FWF, was Mr Brian Crozier, who had preceded Mr Robert Moss, author of "Chile's Marxist Experiment," at the Economist.

Forum started its operations in the publishing field in the 1960s, through an arrangement with the publishing house of Secker and Warburg. The arrangement lasted until 1969, when with three books published it lapsed, mainly because the

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books were not very successful. One by Sir Robert Thompson, the noted guerrilla warfare and counter-insurgency expert, who is also on the council of the National Association for Freedom, sold only 1,800 copies and after that both sides appeared to lose interest.

But in 1971 Forum, through its managing director, Mr Iain Hamilton, and Mr Brian Crozier, who ran the agency on a day-to-day basis, reviewed the operation in a big way. Negotiations were started with the publishing company of David and Charles, in Newton Abbot, Devon, to publish more books in the lapsed title series which had been started with Secker and Warburg—the "World realities" series. Like the Institute for the Study of Conflict, which had grown out of Forum, the title sounds authoritative and dispassionate.

The authors who were to write the books were carefully chosen. Many, like Robert Moss, who was commissioned to write the book on Chile, had already got close links with Forum either through working as

agency side, or through contributing to or writing in "Conflict Studies," put out by the Institute for the Study of Conflict at £3 each for a more informed and influential audience.

The arrangement eventually agreed between David and Charles and FWF in February, 1972, meant that the publishing company in effect acted only as printers and distributors. For the publishers the financial risks were minimal. Forum saw to the selection of authors, the commissioning of the actual books and then sent a synopsis to the publishers. David and Charles would then decide whether the title would sell or not. If they agreed to publish one, Forum then handled all the negotiations with the author and oversaw the book right down to the finished draft.

In an extraordinary procedure for the publishing world Forum, which was acting as literary agent, then hired its own literary agent, David Higham Associates, themselves innocent of the motives of FWF, to act for it in negotiations with the publishers.

Forum in fact took all the commercial risk. It handled the payments of advances to authors and their payment from beginning to end. For its part it received from the publishers nothing except the authors' royalties—the normal 10 per cent on home sales and 7½ per cent on overseas sales.

When the amount which had to be paid to David Higham Associates was deducted Forum would then be faced with either making some profit out of taking a share of the royalties, or alternatively conducting the whole exercise at a loss.

But—as was to happen, unknown to them, on Mr Moss's book—there was occasionally the prospect of making considerably more money than there would be through the normal small print, by obtaining a large special order from an interested party.

On a book Forum intended to have published on Taiwan

entered into negotiations with the Taiwan government before a synopsis was even written. The arrangement was that the Government, because of what FWF's managing director described as the "objective" nature of the work, would wish to purchase a considerable quantity. The Government decision was to be based on their approval of the typescript.

This kind of arrangement was not foreseen when the Chile book was first commissioned. The idea of a book on Chile was first mooted by Forum in 1971 at a time when the Allende government was in power. It would not have been a likely client.

After the book had been mooted it was decided to change the author to Robert Moss. Moss was no stranger to Mr Crozier's operations, having already contributed to publications put out by the Institute for the Study of Conflict. As late as 1974, shortly before Forum's hurried closure, he was still writing for the news agency side. Two articles he wrote in that year both carried his by-line. One, entitled "Brussels—centre of subversion" described him as "Brussels FWF correspondent." It was sub-titled "Widespread recruiting by Trotskyite 4th In-

The scale of the CIA  
operation was revealed  
in the Church  
committee hearings

ternational." The second, again naming Moss as "FWF Correspondent" was an exclusive interview with Enoch Powell. By 1974 he had also written five ISC "Conflict Studies," two on Chile, two on Uruguay, and one, co-authored with Forum's managing director, Iain Hamilton, on Ireland.

Nor was he, by the time of the Allende government's fall in September 1973 and the eventual publication of his